

grown so large that it moved to a barn on Bedford Avenue and, on July 4th of that year, the new church was dedicated.

By 1910 the church has become self-supporting and in 1916 construction on the current building was started. The church, a New England colonial design reflecting a post Civil War spirit of unity and self determination, was completed by 1922. Subsequently a sanctuary was added as well as tower chime.

The Mount Vernon Heights Congregational Church has always practiced community activism as well as charitable works and community projects, such as its youth seminars and elderly centers.

The church also is part of the annual pulpit exchanges in which ministers from 19 churches deliver sermons at sister churches.

The church is justly proud of its fellowship of many denominations and its ministers of many differing ethnic and social backgrounds. The Rev. Maximilian Bernard Surjadinata, pastor since 1988, was born in Indonesia. I warmly congratulate the Mount Vernon Heights Congregational Church on its centenary and for its wonderful accomplishments in those hundred years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 190, the Shays amendment—"to reduce troop levels in Europe from 100,000 to 25,000 by fiscal year 2002; excludes troops assigned to Greenland, Iceland, Azores, and those serving for more than 179 days under a military-to-military program; and does not apply in the event of war or attack on NATO member nation," I was absent for the above-referenced vote because I was in North Carolina attending the funeral services for the father of my District Office Director. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

THANK YOU BUFORD RICE

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Buford Rice, administrator and executive vice president of the Colorado Farm Bureau. Mr. Rice has announced his plans to retire September 1, 1999, after 38 years of distinguished service to the agriculture industry.

Raised on an irrigated farm in the Yellowstone River Valley of eastern Montana and later graduating from Montana State University, Rice began his career with the Montana Farm Bureau in 1961 as an area field services director. In 1972, he became the executive secretary for the North Dakota Farm Bureau and in 1976 he accepted the offer to serve as public affairs director for the Colorado Farm Bureau. Rice was named manager of the Colorado Farm Bureau in 1979 and was promoted to administrator/executive vice president in 1990.

Rice and I first met and quickly became friends while I was serving in the Colorado State Senate. Through our professional relationship, I gained tremendous respect for his knowledge of agriculture issues and dedication to the survival of the farm and ranch industry. Because of his passion for the tradition of farming, Rice has always looked forward to going to work every morning these many years.

Currently, Rice serves on various public and private councils and advisory committees. Some of those include the Colorado Public Expenditures Council Board of Directors, Colorado Extension Advisory Committee, CSU Livestock Leaders Council, External Committee—CSU Institute on Environment and Natural Resources and the Colorado Public Lands Multiple Use Coalition.

He and his wife Darlyne reside in Littleton, CO, and have two children, four grandchildren and two step-grandchildren.

Buford Rice is a man who embodies the western tradition of what is good about this great country—sound land and water conservation practices, private property rights, and most importantly, preservation of the family farm. The state of Colorado owes Buford Rice a great debt of gratitude for his life-long work on behalf of the agriculture community. Thank you Buford.

HONORING RHONDA (RANDI) WEINGARTEN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to praise a woman who has accomplished much. Rhonda (Randi) Weingarten is the new president of the 130,000-member United Federation of Teachers, the largest local union in the United States. She is also vice president of the 960,000 member American Federation of Teachers, the UFT's national affiliate and is a member of the Board of Directors of both the New York State United Teachers and the New York City Central Labor Council.

From 1986 to 1998 Randi served as counsel to UFT President Sandra Feldman, taking a lead role in contract negotiations for teachers and other school employees. When Ms. Feldman became president of the American Federation of Teachers, Randi was selected to serve as president. She has a B.S. from Cornell and graduated cum laude from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. She was also an adjunct professor at Cardozo from 1986-91. She first became affiliated with the UFT when working for a prestigious law firm which had the union as a client.

She has served as legislative assistant for the New York State Senate Labor Committee and as a mediator on disputes originating in the New York Criminal Court. She has served as a member of the board and then as chairperson of the Health Insurance Plan of Greater New York. She is also a certified teacher of social studies and American History.

Randi continues to advance the cause of education in New York. I look forward to working with her to keep that education of our youth as the highest priority of the people and our governments at every level.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 188, the Weldon amendment—to "provide \$7.3 million for the operation and maintenance of space launch facilities and require a study of space launch ranges and requirements," I was absent for the above-referenced vote because I was in North Carolina attending the funeral services for the father of my District Office Director. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

IN MEMORY OF BETTY DESANTO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of one of Cleveland's greatest softball players, Betty DeSanto.

Betty DeSanto has been a dedicated sports-woman all her life. She has been a part of many softball teams and has won countless city titles. She was even inducted into the Greater Cleveland Sports Hall of Fame in 1984 and the Greater Cleveland Slow Pitch Hall of Fame in 1991.

Betty DeSanto was a person who not only played the sport well, she exemplified great sportsmanship. As the assistant manager and later as the manager of the Cudell Recreation Center, she organized various sports teams and encouraged both boys and girls in their athletic pursuits. She is an inspiration to all who participate in sports and with a little dedication, love and heart you can go on to achieve greatness.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring this great sportswoman, Betty DeSanto. She was a very talented athlete and she will be greatly missed.

HONORING DR. GARY SCHNEIDER UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Gary Schneider, one of the foremost experts on forestry at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, is retiring this year.

Dr. Schneider has been an asset to the University for many years, having served as a Professor and Head of the Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries. Currently, he serves as the Associate Dean of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at UT.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Schneider has also served as a consultant for many organizations including, the U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Agency for International Development and many others. Additionally, he has published several academic articles.

Dr. Schneider has advanced the study of forestry and related fields during his tenure at